

to have blown up the whole street. A general who had been entrusted with the examination of this shop after the police knew there was something wrong, had hastily retreated when he noticed that the butter tubs were covered with only a thin film of butter; with such courage and care was the investigation conducted on all sides. Under the bridges they hastened to station small naval boats night and day, from which divers descended into the Canal and from time to time brought to the surface old tea kettles and suchlike suspicious looking objects. Under the stone bridge a subterranean passage really was discovered leading from the water to underneath the peaceful domain of a German sausage seller. It was a circumstance little calculated to comfort the dwellers by the canal, to be witnesses day and night of these disquieting investigations. In the barracks the soldiers were continually under arms, in order to rush out at any minute to the place of terror where an explosion with attendant riot was expected. At nightfall troops of Cossacks rode along the side of the canal at short intervals, slowly and phantastically.

And in addition to these gloomy circumstances which were sufficiently calculated to keep the mind in suspense, from house to house there ran the old women's tales, that are nowhere so bad as in St. Petersburg: and what tales of murders were told there! One inventive brain put together the initials of the names of the Czar's brothers, which gave the word *Sawan* or read backwards *Nawas*, that was interpreted "the shroud for five". They must all die, but only one could die a natural death. Then a gypsy was walking about who had prophesied everything; and one of the Czar's court physicians of the third class was whispering to an acquaintance that two days before the murder he had seen a raven—he must have meant a hawk—which had killed a dove at one of the windows of the Winter Palace. Then came more ridiculous stories from the highest circles. The Grand Duke Constantine the Elder, who as head of the fleet had many sins on his conscience, for which in later days he was banished for a long time from Court, was suspected by his best friends of being the moving spirit of the deed; and they knew well how to let this rumour penetrate to the credulous lower classes, so that when the Grand Duke drove out, the cry of "Fratricide!" was shouted after him. Even the young Imperial pair were not spared; it was said that the Emperor was in a continued fainting fit and the Empress was desirous of escaping to Denmark. The Police, who had completely lost their heads, did not fail to act in the most extraordinary way. One day an enormous crowd was swarming before the chief police building and under the surveillance of the police made its way inside. They were there to recognise an arrested Nihilist about whom the police had no information; the man, of dignified and distinguished appearance, in a black frock-coat with dark hair and beard, stood on a stool in a room, carefully watched by the police, and the crowd were made to pass slowly by him and out through another door into the open air. He stood there upright with a certain dignity, and himself with flashing eyes took stock of each man as he entered. The proceeding had not the slightest result, and it was only later that his personality became known; he proved to be an ex-naval officer, and was afterwards executed.

But while the whole population of the capital was swayed by anxiety a rumour suddenly became current that Russia stood on the threshold of a constitution, that it was the will of the murdered Czar that his successor should grant it to the people. On the day before the murder it was said that the Ukase had been printed in the Imperial press, and by it the people were to be given a share in the Government. The importance of this document has, up to the present day even, been greatly over-estimated. It was in no sense a grant of a constitution, but a modest "draft for payment in the future", the value of which was very questionable. It had not sprung from the liberal ideas of Alexander II, but being entirely a product of fear, he had hoped by its means to preserve his life for a time. The constitutional delirium of the inhabitants of St. Petersburg only lasted a couple of days. The Emperor threw the manuscript in the fire and then, as is well known, saw the "finger of God" which warned him to maintain the autocracy intact.

It was not till after the execution of the murderers of the Emperor on May 15th that peace of mind was restored to the populace of the capital. Then summer came, and when the Petersburgers returned from their sojourn in the country, they had forgotten the evil days and plunged in their old way into the enjoyment of Society.

TELEGRAMS.

PARIS, March 20. In today's Ministerial Council M. Etienne, Minister of War, stated that in view of the occurrences in St. Servan he had instructed the Corps Commanders that in future the civil authorities, in case they are in need of military assistance, are no longer to apply to individual

officers, but to the higher authorities direct, and the latter are to be responsible for the supply and management of the assistance required.

LENS, March 20. The number of miners on strike in the department Pas de Calais has now reached 51,376. As a general rule things are quiet; but at a few places men willing to work have been maltreated by the strikers. The Congress on miners meets today at 2 p.m. but it is believed that they will refuse the conditions offered by the mine owners, and that, too, by an adverse vote of the whole body of miners.

The Engineers commission has announced that in the preceding night they had penetrated to within 8 metres of the fire. The length of the pipes already laid is 300 metres. The renewal of the wood of the shafts is being proceeded with, and thus they will be able to fight the flames with the fire hose in safety.

VIENNA, March 20. House of Representatives. In the continued first reading debate of the franchise-reform Bill Herr Schalk opposed the Bill on the ground that it contained tendencies to increasing the Slav element. The speaker pointed to the hostility of the Slaves to the alliance with Germany, and declared that the only way to make franchise-reform acceptable was to establish the privileged position to be occupied by Galicia, as striven for also by the Poles, though for other reasons. By this means the parliamentary German majority would be assured.

PARIS, March 20. Further particulars are announced as to today's sitting of the Ministerial Council. The Premier, M. Sarrien imparted to the council the report he had received as to the occurrences which took place yesterday in Saint Nicolas du Port, (department Meurthe and Moselle) when two vicars had fired with revolvers on the mob who were attacking the parsonage, and had wounded one workman fatally.

The Ministerial Council granted the Sport Unions permission to hold an extra race-day, the financial proceeds of which are to be given to the survivors of the Courrières disaster. This meeting will probably take place on April 5.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 20. The quarrel which has arisen between England and Egypt on the one side, and Turkey on the other side, touching the question of Akaba, is growing more serious. On the English side complaint is made because the Commissioners dispatched by Turkey passed through Cairo without communicating with the Egyptian authorities, and that moreover the Turkish troops had occupied Taba, although their withdrawal was to have been the preliminary to any arrangement. England has declared that she deprecates these circumstances and is forced to adopt further measures.

PARIS, March 20. According to the *Temps* Count Lamsdorff has addressed the following despatch to Count Cassini, the Russian representative at the Algeiras Conference: "It is absolutely untrue that the Russian Government has advised France to accept the Austrian proposals touching the organisation of police. It is equally untrue that the Russian Government believes that France could allow of the organisation of the police in Casablanca being entrusted to a neutral Power. The Russian Government has never ceased, and never will cease, to act towards France as to a true ally, starting from the standpoint that in this way, the peaceable solution of the problem, so desired, will be most successfully reached". In consideration of the importance of the question and to avoid all misunderstandings, this telegram is to be communicated to the French Pleni-potentiaries, and its import imparted to the representatives of the other Powers in Algeiras. The Russian Ambassador here is instructed accordingly to bring this note to Count Cassini to the knowledge of the French Foreign Minister, M. Bourgeois.

LENS, March 20. After a meeting of the strikers held today, who belong to the syndicate Broutchoux which is affiliated to the "Confederation du travail" a procession was formed, preceded by a red flag, as a demonstration against the syndicate, of which the deputy M. Basly is president. As the procession met a detachment of gendarmes the bearer of the flag struck at the gendarmes and their horses with it. The flag was torn from its bearer by the Deputy Basly and some gendarmes, and a hand to hand fight ensued in which five persons, among them Broutchoux, were wounded. Later the strikers assembled with two red flags on the square of the Palais de Ville, and a trumpeter, who was with them, gave repeated but fruitless signals for an attack on the mayoral buildings. The Prefect had given orders that the mayoral buildings, where the congress was being held, should be guarded by police. The strike committee has telegraphed to the Minister of the Interior protesting against the action of the gendarmes and the arrest of Broutchoux, and demanding the latter's release.

LENS, March 20. The miners congress in which 177 delegates took part has decided by 167 votes against 10 to reject the raise of wages offered on Sunday by the mining companies.

MOSCOW, March 20. The Bank called the "Mutual Credit Company" situated in the centre of the city near the Bourse, was forcibly entered today by about 20 men armed with revolvers. They, by threatening the bank officials with revolvers, stole

about 850,000 roubles in gold and credit notes. The band of robbers succeeded in escaping.

LONDON, March 20. The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Lloyd George has introduced a Bill the chief object of which is the extension to all foreign harbours of the regulations at present applied to British ships concerning overloading unseaworthiness, the stowing of wheat and the provision of life saving apparatus. Ships belonging to countries which already enforce regulations are to be exempted from the working of this act.

ROME, March 20. The sufferers from the earthquake in the island of Ustica begged for assistance, as the exiled criminals detained on the island had rebelled. The minister of Marine immediately sent the help desired.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 20. The Port Arthur Committee of Inquiry have established the fact that the Generals Fock and Kondratenko had determined to arrest General Stössel in Port Arthur; and that the death of Kondratenko alone prevented the execution of their design.

LISBON, March 20. The Cabinet has been re-constituted. S. Hintze Ribeiro becomes Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

PALERMO, March 20. Since the night of the 18th instant, 21 shocks of earthquake, accompanied by loud reports, have been felt. The population are filled with alarm. The Prefect of the island has sent a vessel with a scientific Commission on board, to study the phenomena. A steamer is also ready to start at a moment's notice, to bring assistance in case of need.

ROME, March 20. The *Giornale d'Italia* hears from Djibuti that Ras Makonen, the Governour of the Abyssinian city of Harrar, is dying.

LONDON, March 20. The Education Committee of the county of Glamorgan have appointed a Subcommittee to consider the expediency of equipping a Rescue corps with the apparatus used by the Germans at Courrières.

MELNITZ, March 20. Early this morning one of the barrack-huts occupied by workmen employed on the Tauern railway caught fire. Six Macedonians perished in the flames, and five were seriously injured.

MOSCOW, March 21. Three prisoners confined in the Police buildings escaped today during the hours of out-door exercise.

LONDON, March 21. The *Daily Telegraph* reports from Tokio, that the partial restoration of communications has rendered it possible to obtain particulars of the great earthquake in the island of Formosa. The loss of life is estimated at several thousands. The whole island felt the shock. Slighter shocks, occurring at intervals from early in the morning to late at night on the 17th instant, were felt also in Japan. In Kumamoto, during the night and on the following morning five shocks occurred. Telegrams from Formosa report that the flourishing places Datrijo, Raisbiko, and Shrinko, were entirely destroyed. In Kagi 200 natives and 7 Japanese lost their lives. The authorities are carrying on their duties in hastily constructed huts. In Datrijo 600 dead bodies were counted. The loss of property is enormous.

LENS, March 21. The Strikers held a Meeting today to protest against the arrests made during the demonstrations a short time before, and particularly against that of Broutchoux. As the Meeting became noisy, it was dispersed by the Police.

MADRID, March 20. Sig. Morst, the Prime Minister, has tendered the resignations of his Cabinet to the King. His Majesty reserved his decision until tomorrow.

INDIANOPOLIS, March 20. The anthracite coal-owners have accepted the proposal of the Miners Union, to summon a Conference of owners and workmen before the 1st of April in order to make one more attempt to adjust the differences between them.

The Conference of bituminous coal-owners referred the wages question to a mixed Committee, and then adjourned.

STOCKHOLM, March 20. Three Russian students here have been identified as belonging to the band who robbed the State Bank at Helsingfors on the 25. February last.

LONDON, March 21. A *Daily Telegraph* report from Tokio states that, whereas the Japanese loans issued during the war were over-subscribed, the last internal loan cannot be called a brilliant success, but rather took like a partial failure. As yet, of the whole amount of the loan, £20,000,000, only £19,299,800 have been subscribed, and that, with a few exceptions, in small amounts. There remain only a few country districts from which returns have to be received. As the object of the loan is to redeem Treasury Bonds, two thirds of which are held in foreign countries this means an export of gold.

LONDON, March 20. According to the report of the Viceroy of India for the week ending the 10th instant, rain fell in the Agra and Oudh districts, but the amount cannot be estimated. Prices are somewhat lower. There was rain also in the Punjab. In Rajputana, Central India, and Hyderabad no rainfall occurred. In other provinces the prospects are good. The total number of people on the relief works is 403,000.

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